AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An airspring (10) comprising a flexible cylindrical sleeve (14) secured at opposing ends, and first and second retainers (12, 26), the sleeve being secured at a first end to one of the retainers (12 or 26), and at the opposing end to other retainer (26 or 12), the improvement being characterized by:

one of the retainers (26) having ~~an integrally formed~~ a bumper-contact surface (52) within the sleeve (14) for axial movement into the sleeve (14), the bumper-contact surface formed as part of the retainer and which ~~for~~ contacts ~~with~~ the other retainer (12) when the airspring is collapsed, and ~~for~~ absorb~~sing~~ and transmit~~sting~~ forces generated from such contact, the bumper contact surface (52) being centrally located on the surface of the retainer (26) which extends into the sleeve (14) during axial movement into the sleeve (14).

2. (currently amended) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 1 wherein the retainer (26) having the ~~integrally formed~~ bumper-contact surface (52) is comprised of support ribs (34, 40, 42, 44, 48).

3. (original) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 2 wherein the support ribs are substantially radially extending (42, 48).

4. (original) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 2 wherein the support ribs are a series of concentrically disposed ribs (34, 40, 44).

5. (currently amended) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 1 wherein the retainer (26) having the ~~integrally formed~~ bumper-contact surface (52) is defined by a first axially outer surface (52) which extends into the airspring sleeve (14) and a second axially outer surface (50) which extends into the airspring sleeve (14), the axially outermost of the two surfaces being the bumper-contact surface (52) and the axial difference between the two surfaces being greater than zero to separate the two surfaces by a dimension (b).

6. (currently amended) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 5 wherein the retainer (26) having the ~~integrally formed~~ bumper-contact surface (52) has an axial height (H) as measured from the axially outer most surface (52) to the axially innermost surface, and the

surface-separation dimension (b) is 20 to 80% of the retainer height (H).

7. (currently amended) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 1 wherein the airspring (10) further comprises a piston (28) and the flexible sleeve (14) is comprised of a bead ring (24) at one end, the bead ring (24) being secured between the retainer (26) having the ~~integrally formed~~ bumper-contact surface (52) and the piston (28).

8. (currently amended) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 1 wherein the retainer (26) having the ~~integrally formed~~ bumper-contact surface (52) is formed from a thermoplastic material having a tensile strength in the range of 1965 to 3165 kg/cm^2 (28,000 to 45,000 psi), and a flex strength in the range of 2810 to 4220 kg/cm^2 (40,000 to 60,000 psi).

9. (original) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 8 wherein the retainer (26) is formed from a material selected from the following group: fiberglass reinforced nylon, long fiber reinforced thermoplastic, and short fiber reinforced thermoplastic.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim ~~11~~ 17 wherein the retainer has more than two concentrically disposed ribs.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim ~~13~~ 18 wherein the retainer (26) having the integrally formed bumper-contact surface (52) has an axial height (H) as measured from the axially outer most surface (52) to the axially innermost surface, and the surface-separation dimension (b) is 20 to 80% of the retainer height (H).

15. (canceled)

Please add the following new claims:

16. (new) An airspring (10) comprising a flexible cylindrical sleeve (14) secured at opposing ends, a chamber (20) created by the secured sleeve (14), a piston (28), and first and second retainers (12, 26), the sleeve being secured at a first end to one of the retainers (12 or 26), and the opposing end of the sleeve (14) being secured between the piston (28) and the other retainer (26 or 12), wherein:

one of the retainers (26) has a centrally located axially outer surface (52), the axially outer surface (52) extends into the chamber (20) during axial movement, wherein the axially outer surface (52) of the retainer (26) contacts the other retainer (12) when the airspring is collapsed.

17. (new) An airspring in accordance with claim 16 wherein the retainer has support ribs (34, 40, 42, 44, 48).

18. (new) An airspring in accordance with claim 16 wherein the retainer (26) has a second axially outer surface (50) which extends into the airspring sleeve (14), the axially outermost of the two surfaces being the surface which contacts the other retainer (12) when the airspring is collapsed, and the axial different between the two outer surfaces (50, 52) being greater than zero to separate the two surfaces by a dimension (b).

19. (new) An airspring in accordance with claim 16 wherein the axially outer surface (52) of the retainer is radially inward, relative to a radial center of the airspring, of the secured ends of the elastomeric sleeve (14) secured by the retainer having the axially outer surface that contacts the other retainer.

20. (new) An airspring in accordance with claim 16 wherein the airspring has no separately formed and applied bumper on either retainer.

The new claims 16-20 are supported by the original specification and introduce no new matter.